

Eisenhower Recalls U-2 Crisis

By the Associated Press

New York

Look magazine says former President Eisenhower admitted his administration blundered in originally denying the U-2 spy flight of Francis Gary Powers.

The magazine added Monday that the President's son prevailed upon him to keep his views private.

"In retrospect, the President realized that the crisis had been badly handled," the magazine said. "He admitted privately that the United States had jumped too soon in issuing its May 5 statement last year."

"Eisenhower also said this in an interview filmed by the Columbia Broadcasting System for telecast on Nov. 27, 1951. But this portion of the film was snipped out at the insistence of Lt. Col. John Eisenhower, the President's son, who is serving as his father's aide."

The Look article also said:

"Eisenhower admitted privately that the administration had become overconfident in the U-2 operation. There was reason for this overconfidence. The U-2 program had operated without exposure for four years, providing the underpinning for some of the most important policies of the Eisenhower years."

"It had convinced the President that the 'strategic gap' and 'missile gap' were 'fictions.' It had also persuaded him that Soviet advances in space were not as spectacular as they seemed and that the Russians, like were superheating a chain of failures. But in the process, the U-2 may have acquired mythical importance to the administration."

Herb Eichenly, executive producer of "CBS Reports," said this about the Look article:

"We said on each of the three programs that much of the material was for the Eisenhower Archives in Abilene, and we have made it our business to discuss only those things which were reviewed. We are not going to alter this policy now, but we should like to state that our source should in no way imply that the statement concerning the U-2 affair is true."

STATINTL